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The Resilient Classroom

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Agenda

1. Understanding Childhood Experiences
2. The Resilient Classroom
3. How to Participate
4. Q&A

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Our Mission

Early Learning Indiana is on a mission to ensure children throughout Indiana are empowered with essential skills to thrive in kindergarten and beyond.

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The ELI Difference

Practicing What We Teach

Operate 12 early learning centers in central Indiana and West Lafayette, teaching more than 1K children daily

Sharing What We Know

Leading industry-wide transformation to improve the access, quality and affordability of early care and education

Driving System-Level Change

Preeminent voice for statewide advocacy, providing subject matter expertise on legislation and shepherding major initiatives on behalf of the State of Indiana

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Understanding Childhood Experiences

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Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

ACEs experienced in childhood, especially in the first three years of life, have been linked to a myriad of physical, social and mental health complications in adults, as well as lifelong outcomes such as unemployment and decreased educational attainment.

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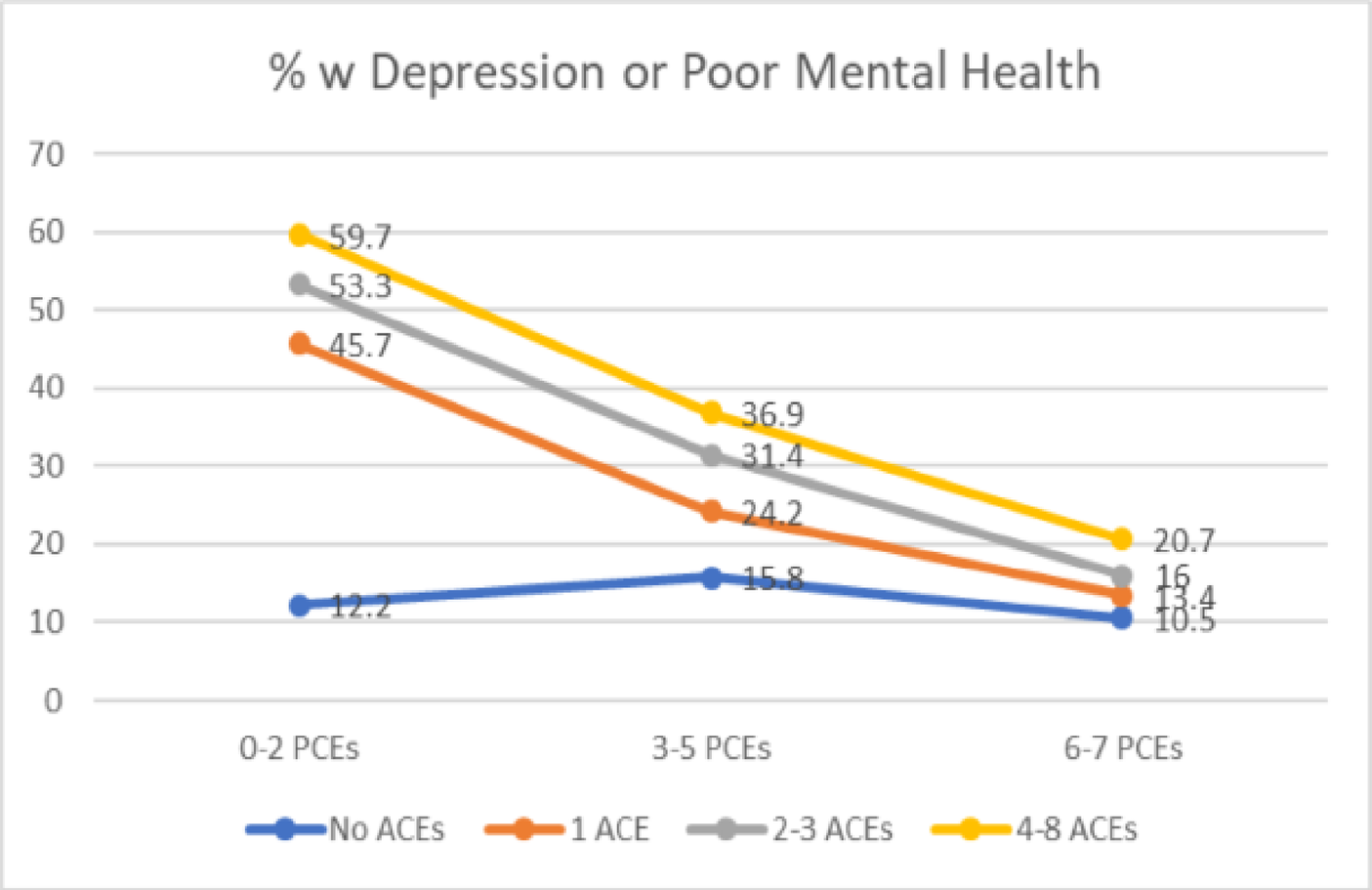
Positive Childhood Experiences Mitigate ACEs Effects



Bethell C, Jones J, Gombojav N, Linkenbach J, Sege R. Positive Childhood Experiences and Adult Mental and Relational Health in a Statewide Sample: Associations Across Adverse Childhood Experiences Levels. JAMA Pediatr. 2019:e193007.

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HOPE Framework

Positive experiences can ease toxic stress and help children grow into more resilient, healthier adults. The Healthy Outcomes of Positive Experiences (HOPE) framework identifies ways that communities and organizations can better ensure that all children have more positive experiences through:

- Nurturing, supportive relationships
- Safe, stable, nurturing environments
- Social engagement and developing connectedness
- Learning social-emotional competencies

Learn more about the HOPE framework here.

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The Resilient Classroom

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The Resilient Classroom

To strengthen positive childhood experiences, Early Learning Indiana designed a new social emotional learning (SEL) curriculum that equips classroom educators with the skills and understanding needed to promote healthy, positive development for all children.

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10-week Training Program

Includes 10 hours of asynchronous instruction and 5 hours of classroom-based activities, blending online learning with practical application of social-emotional learning tools and skills.

Modules cover topics such as educator resilience, understanding the brain, implementing SEL strategies into the early childhood classroom and addressing individual child concerns.

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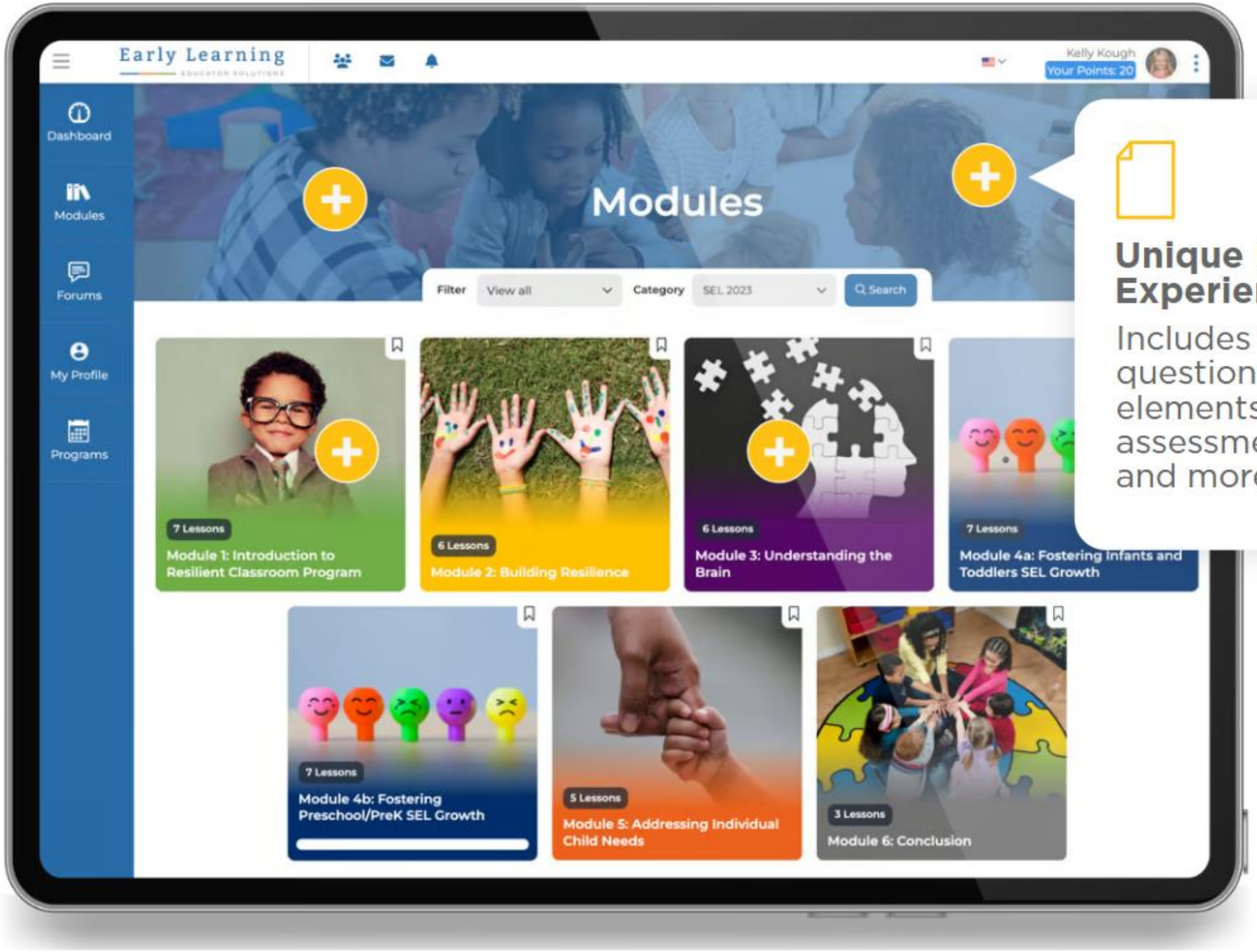

Unique Learning Experience

Includes videos, reflective questions and interactive elements such as self-assessments, case studies and more.

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Classroom Impact

"Before she started the training, my assistant teacher struggled with big feelings from our children. She felt like she couldn't meet them where they were and help them through it. Now, she's calmer, she talks to them, encourages them and lifts them up."

Stephenie Johnson, director and teacher at St. Anthony de Padua Preschool

96%

of participating teachers reported successfully implementing strategies from the curriculum in their classrooms.

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Child-Level Impact

Devereux Early Childhood Assessments (DECA) are behavior rating scales that provide an assessment of protective factors central to social and emotional health and resilience in children. Collecting this data before and after implementing the Resilient Classroom allows educators to gauge student progress.

Comparing post-DECA data from Cohort 2 with the pre-DECA data from Cohort 3: significantly higher scores on taking initiative, forming relationships with adults, improved self-control, and higher total protective factors than children in Cohort 3 at baseline.

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How to Participate

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Eligibility

To participate organizations must meet the following criteria:

- Licensed, registered or regulated program
- Serving children ages 0-5
- Located in Boone, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Marion, Morgan or Putnam counties

Through generous funding from the United Way of Central Indiana, this program is free of charge to selected early childhood programs.

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Interest Form

In addition to basic program demographics, the application will gather the following:

- Number of classrooms and children served
- Number of teachers and their experience levels and tenure
- Information about current classroom learning practices
- Information about approach to coaching classroom team members
- Current technology available and possible technology needs to support implementation

All applications must be submitted on the application platform, Submittable, by **5 p.m. ET on April 11, 2025.**

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Participation Requirements

All participating programs must complete a program agreement prior to beginning.

School leaders or directors are invited to join a kickoff lunch hosted by Early Learning Indiana at our Indianapolis-based office on May 13.

All participating educators in a program must collect child-level data using the DECA in participating classrooms via the online DECA platform (e-DECA) and share de-identified data with Early Learning Indiana for analysis.

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Participating Programs Will Receive:

- Access to the Deveraux Early Childhood Assessment (DECA), allowing for child-level data collection for one year with support from a DECA representative
- Access to the Resilient Classroom program, facilitated by Early Learning Indiana's expert coach
- In-person kickoff lunch with other educators participating in this cohort
- New "Teacher Safe Space" kit including items to encourage educator wellness, resilience and regulation throughout the day
- $1,000 per-site stipend, issued upon completion of the program

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Timeline

March 19	April 11	April 21	May 13	June-October
Interest form opens	Interest form due by 5 p.m. ET	Participation Agreement due	In-person Kickoff Lunch	Implement the Resilient Classroom

Questions?

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Thank you!

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